

# **BAIGAIS GADS**



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The republishing of «The Ghastly Year» is not only praiseworthy and to be congratulated but also necessary. «The Ghastly year» in the life of the Latvian people refers to events which can not be kept hidden. «The Ghastly year» is the first and, at the given moment, the only documentation of events of 1940, precise evidence from that time without any connections to be made with present events within Latvia. This book can not be accepted as an invitation to a specific action or as blame upon some nationality. It is evidence left by history on events in 1940 within Latvia so few of which are documented or depicted. It was a period of time filled with tragedy, and the misrepresentation of actual historical events in order to serve present needs is unacceptable.

This historical, unedited republication of the «The Ghastly Year» , unexpurgated for the current political state of affairs, has the blessing of God, and there are no grounds to consider this to be anti-Semitic literature.

Clergyman Kārlis Zuika

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## "The Ghastly Year"

shows Bolshevism the way it really was: hidden under deceit and lies, filled with the mercilessness of a witch, hungry for anguish and blood, hungry for the moans of martyrs, immeasurable in vengeance and calamity, inconceivable in depravity, derision for mind and honor, blasphemy for virtue - a sign for all of this which was achieved by mankind through many thousands of years of labor and struggle.

## «THE GHASTLY YEAR»

tells of the horror and misery which in 1940 and 1941 once more befall the Latvian people, which from time immemorial is standing guard for Europe against the East, over which, ever subsiding, during the passing of the Ages was lashed by the waves of the attacks of Tartar hordes, sores from the curse of the Black Plague, even the killing charcoal fumes of Bolshevism coming from that fire made for the burning of the entire world and who by its unshakable faith is responsible for the greatest danger and the greatest misfortunes: «We must rise from this land, we must hold our heads up again!»

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This Summer time won't follow ancient path,  
 the flowers will be sad, bee's honey will be bitter.  
 The steed will not be harnessed to go to distant haunts,  
 and branchy jasmine in the May won't blossom.

Without reward will the Sun remove the darkness of the days,  
 and on Midsummer Night Joy won't come even begged.  
 The blossom picked now will fade forever,  
 the glade will ghastly be, and every bush hides fear.

The wind will blow red fog across the fields.  
 Inopportunely, the trees will drop their fruit.  
 The burden will become that which exists and does not.

And even bowels of the Earth, when asked, won't respond,  
 because the springs of water will be turned  
 into a wormwood by your own betrayal.

Edvards Virza

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The Earth's sap was being drawn in to young shoots and buds; life was striving to release its primalforce.

The gates of extermination flew open. Poison flooded the soil of Latvia. It soaked into the ground, it saturated the air, it shrouded the Sun with a bloody vapor that the newborn child sucked in with its mother's milk, that the woman shall lose the strength in her arms and the glory of her virtue, that the man in the very prime of life shall shrivel and his honor and intensity of mind become like a dead branch which is not able to raise new shoots nor bear its own weight.

The human hand desires to build a monument to an extinguished life, and life itself leaves footprints through the living. But the one who decided to destroy, he eradicated so completely that even a stone could not testify as to where and how long was this battered life. So where the paths of anguish are stained with blood and ruins, there is not even one witness remaining because there should be no one to tell about those to whom belonged this blood, what sort of mind has built those houses smashed now into ruins.

Such a destiny was the condemnation of the Latvian

people.5

Who was this monstrosity capable of accumulating such a poison and drenching the soil of the Latvians?

Anyone who from ambush stalks a victim is a villain, anyone who from beneath the cover of the darkness of the night attacks life with a dagger in the back is called a murderer. Yet there does not exist a name to describe this terrible power which left behind skeletons and ruins - in the same way how can a name not be found for all this, the dreadful existence of which is not able to reach the borders of consciousness and mind. This horror, this hunger for blood and the distress brought by an unknown power that neither mankind nor the gods had ever divined or seen.

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The martyrs and deportees keep silent, the anguish fades with death, the moans of pain are heard only by the Sky, but the injury, humiliation and shame which screams for the bared lips of the corpses in their black grave holes will never fade. Their blood will forever crave retribution and covering their dust, the Earth will never keep silent until Justice, Nature and God shall take away those pains of soul and body which were suffered by the fettered, disarmed and humiliated Latvian nation in the hour of its trial by anguish.

The Earth opened. It gave back the victims and disclosed the horror, the depth of the disaster and the suffering the Ghastly year had been hiding. The words are dumb, the lips are helpless even to tell about this abyss of inhumanity on the brink of which the Latvian nation, poised for ruin was standing.

The pictures and the evidence which this time has bequeathed to us shall speak for themselves. And the words which they say, calling for retribution, shall never disappear from the consciousness of the Latvian people.

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## TĀDS BIJA SĀKUMS . . .

1940. gada 15. un 16. jūnijā latvieši pulcējās dziesmu svētkos Daugavpili. Tie bija pēdējie latviešu tautas svētki: bolševiku iebrukums tā pašā gada 14. jūnija naktī Latvijā ievadīja viņas mokū ceļu.

Asins karnevals sākās. Šai naktī «lielais austrumu kaimiņš» pēc 23 gadu baigas klausēšanas pēra pirmo nāves dejas soli latviešu zemē. Lūk vizitkarte, ar ko bolševiki pieteicās nodrošināt 1939. gada noslēgtā PSRS un Latvijas savstarpējā palīdzības pakta pildīšanu:



- The burned quarters of border guards in Mašlenki Augšpils rural district.
- Scorched corpse of border guard Macītis.
- Corpse of Hermine, the wife of the border guard Puriņš.
- Corpse of the border guard Beizaks.

There was no escape from death for the son of border guard Puriņš, who died from serious injuries at the hospital, and border guard Čimoško, who fell simultaneously with Beizaks. Bolsheviks drove back across the border those forty-three border guards and residents of the vicinity who were trying to extinguish the burning border guard quarters...

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This happened at exactly the same time as the Bolshevik press was reporting that...

**"...THE SOVIET UNION HAS BEEN CONDUCTING AND IS CONTINUING TO CONDUCT DEFINITE PRO-LATVIAN POLICIES FAVORABLE IN THE HIGHEST DEGREE..."**

The cynicism and atrociousness with which the Soviet Authority demonstrated itself seemed unbelievable. The hypocrisy and falsifications of the truth seemed incomprehensible. Yet for all that, it was the truth.

The explanations and answers of the official institutions of Latvia were not able to change anything. Moscow was doing as it had decided. An it had decided much.

On morning of June 17, Latvia was quickly flooded by immense hordes of armed Asians.

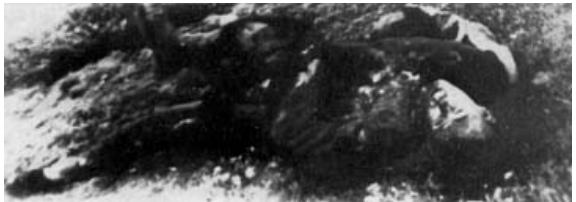
### In the beginning...

On June 15 and 16 of 1940, Latvians came together for the song festival in Daugavpils. This was the last song festival of the Latvian people: the invasion of the Bolsheviks on the night of June 14 of that same year into Latvia started its road of anguish.

A carnival of blood began. That night "the Great Eastern Neighbor", after a terrible silence of twenty-three years, took the first step in a dance of death on Latvian soil. These are the visiting-cards with which the Bolsheviks were announcing themselves to ensure the fulfillment of the USSR - Latvian Mutual Assistance Pact signed in 1939.

### Fatal incident in frontier area

Lta. Riga, June 15. In the dawn of Saturday morning, the quarters of our border guards in Mašlenki (Abrene district along the Latvian - Soviet Union border) was found burned. At the same place were found the dead bodies of two border guards and one woman, as well as another seriously injured woman and similarly injured 14 year-old boy. 11 border guards and several residents of this area have disappeared. A special investigation commission under the management of the commander of the Border Guards Brigade, General Boštens, went to the place of the incident in order to investigate this fatal occurrence.







...But from the secret underground, feeling they had friends in the Bolsheviks, the "Oppressed People" - a few dozen hooligans, recidivists and tramps, and the Yids<sup>9</sup> - "the Chosen People" as a community, were rising in order to attack the Latvian police which were attempting to maintain order on streets flooded by the arriving Soviet armed forces.

The Red Army, which had arrived "to ensure the implementation of the USSR - Latvian Mutual Assistance Pact", took the mob under its protection (center). By that act the Soviet Authorities indicated to whom it wished to provide "mutual assistance": it was certainly not to the Latvian people.

Grimly keeping silent, the Latvians were watching the drama from the sides of the streets, the final scene of which they could not even guess.

*The scene at the Main Post Office on the day of the Bolsheviks' entry into Riga.*

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Attacks upon the police, soldiers and officers of the Latvian army were happening all through the capital and throughout the entire country. Stones were hurled at the police.

After the mob was dispersed the entire square at the station and the Prefecture of Riga was littered with stones.

Latvian institutions, not knowing the morals of the Bolsheviks, still were trying to act according to the existing

laws and being certain that the instigators of the disorders would surely be punished.

This was a bitter delusion. The Soviet embassy explained that it was more or less satisfied with the welcoming of these units of the Red Army into Riga.

The surnames of those punished indicate to which nationality the major number of brawlers belonged.



...uz pl. 13-iem, otrs maiņai  
...uz pl. 13-iem līdz 21-iem un trešā mai  
...ustīgu, pie no pl. 21-iem līdz pl. 5-iem.

## Neapzinīgiem pilsoniem par satiksmes un kārtības traucēšanu būs jāiet cietumā

Rīgas prefekts K. Jaunaražs administratīvā kārtā par satiksmes, mītē un kārtības traucēšanu aizvakar uz ielas mūra draudzīgā pādomjā karaspēka jehakšanām dienā sodīja ar 1000 l. vai 3 mēnesiem arestā Genīšu Krasotiju no Avotu ielas 35-55, Davidu Golbeniņu no Stabu ielas 46-48, Icīnu Gelbarts no Viivalku ielas 3-a un Heimnu Klackiniņu no Sāku ielas 51. Ar 3 mēnešiem arestā sodīta Aleksandrs Kadikis bez noteiktas dzīves vietas. Ar 500 l. vai 3 mēnesiem arestā sodīts Jānis Bērziņš no Tvaika ielas 15, Grigorija Ve-

ruškins no Purva ielas 9, Jānis Tomsons no Vilkū ielas 3, Pēteris Vasiljevs no Latgales ielas 89, Abramis Gēmanovs no Lāzdonas ielas 11, Pāvils Kapkovs no Dzirnavu ielas 169 un Terentija Minovi no Brīvības gatves 239. Ar 300 l. vai 2 mēnešiem arestā sodīta Leīta Meierovics no Kr. Barona ielas 2, Girts Kantors no Katoļu ielas 17, Stanislavjs Mazlovičs no Akmeņu ielas 8, Soloms Kaplāns no Krustu ielas 39, Teodors Avanessovs no Hanzu ielas 10, Antons Pauders no Kr. Barone ielas 29, Edgars Skadulis no Bārmicas iela 24 un Roberts Lūsis no Stabu ielas 46-48. Ar 200 l. vai 2 mēnešiem arestā sodīts Jānis Šmuiss no Lives ielas 18, Dimitrijs Kalnīovs no Lives ielas 18, Pauls Priede no Krāsotiju ielas 11 un ar 100 l. vai 1 mēnesi aresta Jūlijs Fridlenders no Sampētera 1. Visām šim personām spridums arī nekavējoties iplildīts.

200 m

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Y

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o polīzetas bērnu noslēg  
spēta laukos. 1935. g.  
noslēgti 2025 bērni,  
98, un ļovas ar līdz  
ti jau 4000 bērni,  
nūlg vairāk kā  
diensai dar-

Balt-

-ojā

...

Vācu austru mesece  
apvienota ar  
Iekšsaimniecības izrādījumiem

28. vācu austru mesece

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All those events found their protectors. A new government, such as Moscow wanted, was founded. To the left: the Prime Minister, Professor Kirchensteins, giving a speech to the mob, with the Ministers Pēteris Blaus and Jūlijs Lācis. The demonstrators demanded and achieved the legalization of the Latvian Communist Party. In the center: the watchful ear of the party, the First Secretary Kalnbērziņš-Zākis, who was very carefully listening to the "legitimate demands of the nation" - in reality orders from Moscow.





## WHICH NATION WAS THIS?

The language of the slogans and the nature of the demands demonstrate it very clearly.

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The organizer of all events decided by Moscow, the deputy of the chairman of the Council of National Commissars of the USSR, Comrade Višinskis (left), was "warmly" greeting demonstrators, expressing the belief that in the future the flags of the Soviet Union and Latvia will be flying side by side in friendly fashion. This future proved just how outrageous were his lies and how cynical intentions were hiding behind them.

On June 21 Latvian workers and civil servants were driven under compulsion out onto the streets for a "joyous demonstration", that they together with the Yids will cheer their eventual murderers. The Soviet Authorities once having taken under its protection the mob of hooligans, released from the prisons those imprisoned for anti-government activity. Certainly, it never came to the mind of the Latvian government that the USSR wants to found its "pro-Latvian policies" based upon the enemies of the Latvian state ... By this

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WHEN THE POWERS WERE JOINED, THE DESTRUCTION OF THE EXISTING SYSTEM, ORDER AND WEALTH COULD BEGIN. WITH A CONFIDENT HAND A KNIFE WAS STABBED INTO THE BACK OF THE MOST TRUSTWORTHY, LARGEST AND MOST WELL ORGANIZED BULWARK: THE LATVIAN ARMY WAS BOLSHEVISED. MANAGEMENT OF THOSE ACTIVITIES WERE DELIVERED INTO THE HANDS OF THE YIDS.

To the left you can see one of the new officials of the Authority, the Yid, Abrams Genkins. He was a soldier in the Latvian Army, did service in the labor (punishment) command of the Kurzeme Division in Liepāja and was arrested for anti-government activity. During the Bolshevik period, he was appointed as "politruk - political leader" of a separate artillery division and wore the uniform of an officer of the Latvian Army.



Political leaders "politruks" were brought into the Latvian Army. People who had neither military, nor much of the time not even elementary education, but instead of this frequently had a criminal past, overnight became Captains and Colonels in the Latvian Army. Political leaders of the Bolsheviks were training those whose first basic rule was - the

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## TO MOSCOW!

Official statistics indicated that despite the compulsory character of Saeima elections a significant part of those who had voting rights abstained from voting. Therefore the Soviet Authority, by simply creating facts, rounded the number of participants in election up almost to almost 100% of voters. The deputies elected to the Saeima by the compulsory and constrained elections, after the proclamation of Soviet Latvia stepped one step further, delivering their fatherland to a terrible destiny: it was decided to join Latvia to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

The acting president of the state, Professor Kirchensteins, received the task to beg for Moscow's mercy for the implementation of this decision.

Now everything was done. Anything which interfered with the Bolsheviks' purposes was destroyed.

What it really meant was proven most by the joy of the Yids. The Latvian people were aware that the hardest moment of their trial had set in.



*Professor Kirchensteins with the ambassador of the USSR to Latvia, V. Derevjanskis at the Riga railroad station upon leaving for Moscow.*



*Yids escort the delegation.*

In Moscow the process of events planned villainously reached its culmination: THE LATVIAN NATION WAS DRIVEN BY FORCE TO A THRESHOLD WHERE BY ONE STEP IT WAS DECIDED TO ERASE IT FROM THE LIST OF LIVING NATIONS FOREVER.

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Yids were cheering. The demonstration of August 5 turned into a national celebration for the Yids.



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*Acting President of the Latvian state and Prime Minister, Professor A. Kirchensteins.*

This man, in order to make the crudely falsified will of the Latvian people believable, lied hypocritically: "The Latvian working people were suffering from unemployment, were living half starved... for every attempt to acquire for itself the right to human life and to become the ruler of its own destiny it paid with its suffering and anguish, with imprisonment and drudgery for its best sons and daughters... only joining the composition of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics ensures real sovereignty for our state, real prosperity for our industry, our agriculture, our national culture, a bright and powerful increase of the material and cultural welfare of the Latvian people..."

A new Authority was established. All that remained was to arrange for trustworthy guards and bulwarks for it. Already working was an institute for additional help to the police, the "PD" (right). With rare exceptions, the dregs of society flowed into it: thieves, burglars and swindlers and from this the People's Militia was later created. The organizing and management of new security institutions was entrusted to the Yids and hardened criminals.



Kriminālās policijas pārvaldes ziņas par sodīšanu.			
Uzvārds Vārds	<i>Cipe</i>	Dzimis Dzim. vieta Pavalstniecība	1901. g. 12. ē. Rīgo. Latvijas
Uzvārds Vārds	<i>Bucinskis</i> <i>Irāns</i> <i>Valmiera d.</i>	ieslodzēts sodīts	Pēc kāda sodu lik. punkta
		13/21. g.	3 ned. ar esto mīst. 2 m., 5 t.p., 5 t.p., ucp, 9 dīlsor. uz 13.
		12/26. g.	S. l. 581. p.- L. d. 5 t.p.- 1. mēn. eret
		19/29. g.	5 t.p., 6 t.p.- L. d. 2 spat. 1 mēn. cīst
			1000. slimot. lītor 12. nos. 29
			sk. ī. puse.
4.	<i>Kopravn. kropso</i> <i>II. iec. Iecn. 15. III 30. H 8350.</i>		

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# REVENGE WILL NOT HAPPEN!

## THE INVOLABILITY OF PERSONS AND PROPERTY IS ENSURED!

In those few words hid the most terrible cynicism of the Bolsheviks. From the very beginning of the administration of the invaders information about the first arrests spread like a fire. Instead of recidivists, criminal offenders, Bolshevik agents, spies, illegals and the traitors released from imprisonment, the cells of the prisons were filled with Latvian patriots. If Latvian security guards were arrested for the fact that when executing their official duties of maintaining order on streets subject to the spontaneous activities the Yids and a mob stirred up by them, then every other Latvian was put in prison just because he was wearing a soldier's, Border Guard's or National Guard uniform, that he was managing some Latvian government institution, that he litigated according to existing laws and at the least only for the fact that he clearly and bravely announced his belonging to the Latvian people. Yet at the same time, Bolsheviks dogma was announcing the equality and brotherhood of nationalities!

Worry and emotion increased within the people. Confused and deeply shattered from experiencing those events prepared so coldly and cynically, it stood at the brink of an unknown future feeling the nearness of danger. The invaders' force fought the mistrust and hatred of the people. Revenge will not happen! It had to say that, and it must say so not as a power which wants to grow stronger and to create its authority, for which it is important to acquire the trust of the people, but by using existing and new, deliberately-instigated antagonisms in order to pursue its real purpose:

TO DESTROY «THE HARMFUL ELEMENT»

THIS ELEMENT WAS

ALL THE LATVIAN PEOPLE

Revenge will not happen! In those words were included the most outrageous lies of Bolsheviks, the most dreadful purposes, which were

...pēdā... jauno literatu audzē ne-  
**Pārspīlējumi**

Latvijas armijai jāveidojas līdz jaunā laikmeta garā un virzienā. Armijai jābilst jaunā valdība un jābūt par jaunās demokrātiskās iekārtas sargātāju.

Protams, visā pilnībā armija šo uzdevumu varēs veikt tikai pēc tam, kad armijā būs izdarīta demokratizacija. Par to rūpēties ir jauno politisko vadītāju un darbinieku uzdevums. Karavīriem, sevišķi virsniekiem un virsdienesta instruktoriem, ir jāpieskanojas notikušajām lielājām pārmaiņām un pakāpeniski jāpāraug par jaunās iekārtas atbalstītājiem.

Armijā arī turpmāk būs vieta virsniekiem un instruktoriem, kas godīgi un apzinīgi pildīs savus pieņākumus jaunās Latvijas tautas armijas rindās. Nenotiks nekādas nedibinātās izrēķināšanās. Nebūs vietas armijas rindās vienīgi jaunās iekārtas noteiktiem naidniekiem. Šīni sakarībā jau daži augstāki virsnieki ir atstājuši armijas rindas un pēc vajadzības tiks atvajināti vēl daži citi.

Taču nekādā gadījumā nav pamata baumiām un prasībām, lai no armijas atlaistu visus virsniekus vai lielāko daļu no viņiem. Diemžēl, dažas vietās un pat sapulcēs ir atsevišķi neapzinīgi cilvēki izteikuši Ilzdrīgas domas. Šāda rīcība nevēlama. Tā nesaskan ar valdības politiku un tā var tikai kaitēt jaunās iekārtas lietas. Tāpēc šādi nedibināti pārspīlējumi un izlēcieni turpmāk noteiktī novēršami.

Arī jaunai demokrātiskai Latvijai ir vajadzīga sava tautas armija ar godīgiem un centīgiem virsniekiem.

**Latvijas Komunistiskās partijas  
Centralā komiteja.**

more terrible than any that could be found during entire year of their governing. Behind the trust and obedience which should have been established by those words hid the real purpose of the Bolsheviks - to destroy the Latvian people.

**WHEN A YEAR LATER THE EARTH OPENED, THE TRUTH CAME TO LIGHT, AND IT WAS MORE TERRIBLE THAN ANYTHING ONE CAN GUESS OR IMAGINE**

On the 26th International Bolshevik Youth day, Latvia was forced to perform again. Young people from the schools were driven on the streets by compulsion: the Bolsheviks needed to demonstrate to the world that the nation and especially young people understand and love

[Previous](#)[Contents](#)[Next](#)**TO THE STREETS!****TO THE STREETS!****TO THE STREETS!****DEMONSTRATIONS!****DEMONSTRATIONS!****DEMONSTRATIONS!**

That was the characteristic feature for the period of Bolshevik authority. With screamed slogans, Bolshevik marches, the tramp of thousand feet was necessary to express joy for the remembrance of this day when the proletariat dictatorship which promised heaven on earth was born.

In fact those marches, slogans and steps were needed to drown out the thunder of the collapsing human life spoiled by the Bolsheviks, to tread underfoot the lies of the Bolsheviks and screaming indictment for this day which brought hell into the world.



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### *Announcements of job offers.*

*Lines of people wanting a job at the Employment Administration in Riga.*

in Winter all the country  
was surprised by a new  
manner of propagandizing:



Newspaper announcements were inviting people to the Employment Administration to apply for numerous vacancies or newly-created work positions. When the unemployed appeared at the Administration in long lines, it knew nothing about such requirements for helping hands (right).

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# EVERYBODY TO THE ELECTION!



*Home propagandizing.*

January 12, 1941 was coming - the day when Latvians once again were forced to do things against which their will revolted - the day of the election of deputies of the Supreme Council of the USSR.

In addition to the already existing types the Bolsheviks created one more new kind of propagandizing, the so-called «home propagandizing».



*A scene in one of the election meetings for the Supreme Council elections*

Their agents visited individual apartments, called into them all the people living in a building, to whom they then started to explain the meaning of the elections. It is not necessary to guess that the Yids were diligent visitors at those meetings.

And in places where such a manner of propagandizing was not possible it was replaced with meetings within factories and workplaces where frequently there

appeared even only women and children.

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Elections, typically one of the Bolsheviks' villainous ways for the falsification of the true will and feelings of the people, were arranged with extra special care in this case: everyone had to examine in advance whether their name was entered into the voters list (left) even though it was known that not to vote was impossible. One who did not have a note in the passport for participation in elections was subjecting him or herself to the danger of being branded a saboteur.

And as usual, always the Yids and again the Yids were at the forefront.

On January 8, 1941 newspaper "Cīņa" wrote: "One who wishes for the Latvian people(!) the happiness of a peaceful life, the joy of creative work, confidence for his/her own and the family's security and the welfare

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# WE STAND FOR PEACE...



Subjected to Bolshevism by force, the Latvian people were compelled to assume also «the execution of a proud obligation against its wide fatherland, the Soviet Union»- it was decided that the Latvian young people were to become red soldiers. Offices for the registration of draftees were decorated with a lying poster: «We stand for peace, but we will know how to respond to the blows of warmongers.»

*A red army soldiers draftee registration point decorated in a variety of colors.*

At the same time Bolshevik agents were trying to explain to the draftees how dangerous it was for the Soviet Union to be surrounded by capitalists (below). There had been a time when the Baltic states with no means «were endangering» its borders. And it was not a secret to anybody that while speaking of peace the Soviet Union was secretly preparing for war. With the Baltic states it had acquired convenient starting positions to attack Germany, now,- what a fateful game!- it is the turn for Latvian young men to deliver their lives into the hands of the hated Bolshevik aggressors.



*A political education lesson for draftees.*



*Children's entertainment in the hall of the Pioneers' Palace.*

Special attention was paid to the Latvian young people: they must be raised to become «real Bolsheviks». Pioneers Groups were founded, Mopra - Red Assistance was legalized and the Komsomol organization, which must gradually provide new candidates for the Bolshevik Party, was organized.

A stressful situation occurred in the schools- if any of the children was not a member of the Pioneers Organization, then his/her parents were considered by Bolshevik teachers to be harmful for the socialistic country. And any saboteur is dangerous and must be punished. This made many to suppress their opinions and with squeezed teeth watch how their children fell into the claws of the messengers of the «new» culture.

The Riga Palace was transformed into the Pioneers Palace. And while children in their juvenile naivete were involved in childish entertainment, their fathers disappeared from workplaces, from homes - and became missing. And the dark hallways of the KGB and the locked doors of cells were keeping silent, KGB officials were silent and the guards were silent - and also those few who by some miracle were allowed to return from the KGB to life were silent also.

*The hallway of the KGB prison.*

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The Bolsheviks were throwing all their skill at propagandizing and all their efforts into endless demonstrations, screaming slogans and posters. The variety of their colors, hyperbolic correlation and dimensions, loudness created artificially and by forced ways needed from one side to cover that deep indignation, anger of despair and choking hate which was smoldering within the people, from the other side - to cover up their own outrageousness and cruelty which were

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# POSTERS! POSTERS! POSTERS!



*Typical Bolsheviks marching with pictures of government officials, posters and slogans.*



Neither the countryside nor the villages were protected from demonstrations (center). The purposes of the Yids, which are pretty obviously symbolized by the picture to the left, first of all apply to the subordination of the largest mass of the nation to the influence of their misleading and false ideas.

For the achievement of this goal their propagandizing reached the limits of an unbelievable exaggeration: in the front of the demonstrations special dance groups were going, but ...



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*A decoration in Riga on the Brivibas Boulevard bridge.*



*Election bus.*

... street decorations were arranged for every important occasion for Bolshevik celebrations. For the election campaign various means of transportation were mobilized: beginning with trams and ending with buses. Covered with posters and slogans they ran down the streets followed by the chants of special screamers groups inviting to elect, elect (even though it was not possible to abstain) and to elect ... from the people «the best sons and daughters for the struggle for light and a bright future.»

And the buildings of institutions and Bolshevik organizations were covered with more and new posters therefore turning the clean Latvian streets into a mess of Yid-like diversity of colors. incomparably more funds and work were spent for propagandizing than for the entire cultural life in total. These are the statistics.

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*The manager of an enterprise, a Yid, explaining to Latvian workers «the great meaning» of a plan and schedule*



*Red corner in a Riga enterprise*

The walls of factories and enterprises were decorated with many mysterious schedules and plans. The Latvian worker was working, a Yid - the manager of an enterprise was watching that he fulfills the quota. When after work the bored and overtired worker, according to all the ideas of propaganda, was invited by ... the red corner, but certainly nobody went there. This place for glorifying Stalin and party became the butt of caustic remarks and cause for innumerable jokes.

... the same for the wall newspaper, the creation of which required much time and work, but which was read by the Yiddish censor only.

The task of the wall newspaper was to promote division and treason - the most secure support for Yid and Bolshevik power, because the newspaper provided for the right to openly and sharply denounce «undesirable facts and persons» within the factory, enterprise or educational institution. There were people who used those rights.

*Typical Bolshevik wall newspaper.*





Even from the very first days of their invasion Bolsheviks were revealing «the heights» of Soviet culture and by typical means made it to be understood, where it would also be brought - the «culturally undeveloped» country of the Latvians.

Step by step, into Latvian life flooded the ways of the new Russian culture ...



Top and bottom: Red Army public events in Riga parks. The dignity of soldiers of any other army would not have permitted such «cultural» leaps. Center - a group of program performers in some countryside event.

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Certifying friendship with Soviet nations, Andrejs Upits, Vilis Lacis and Janis Niedre who were announced as prominent in Latvian literature, got dressed into Tadzhik dressing-gowns. This happened on days when thousands of best Latvian sons and daughters got driven away for banishment.

The managers of this new « culture», of course, were the Yids, for example manager of Schools Administration Bergmanis and predecessor Grašmanis.



*Yid sportsmen during some Bolsheviks social gathering.*

How deeply the Yiddish was intruded upon Latvians life certify the fact that even sports managers were almost all Yids.

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Here are the witnesses of real Bolsheviks culture: the monument for the liberation of Latgale (sculptor K. Jansons) in Rezekne on the moment of its opening and - after the Bolsheviks arrival.

*Par pionieriem varēja mūsu vārdums, kas izlases. Vadošie mainījās trīs reizes. Pēc tam, kad bija Teodor Spīre, bij nevis prūsis, tādēļ dažumā cīrītīgs. Skābi vārsi jau ar molnīcēm - pionierēm. Viena pionieru darbs bij aprīķis arī mani aicomplīgi par molnīmu pievadīšanu un biju vienam pionierim iederis pīļu un pāriņķīgu rentību satursānos pārmitētām.*

*Mācis gada beigās nobraucēja latīņu skolēji. Tādā iemantēšanā, kā mācis divas retriņas. Tādā iebijē pīsist politiski pīsi, bet novērtēja. Septembrī viena tām uzvaranta spodobījumiem. Kad vēl pārvaldes pīsnīcētēji pīsmācījās vārnu vārnu pīsetēs, tad vāns mācīja, sākot jau, cīrīniņet nomu nīsta mācis zināšanā.*

*Saprotams, tā bija mācījās. Nā bij mācījās un vērti un spīdums tās direktors degradējis par spodobīju ar pārvaldi ne cīru molni, sākot jū*



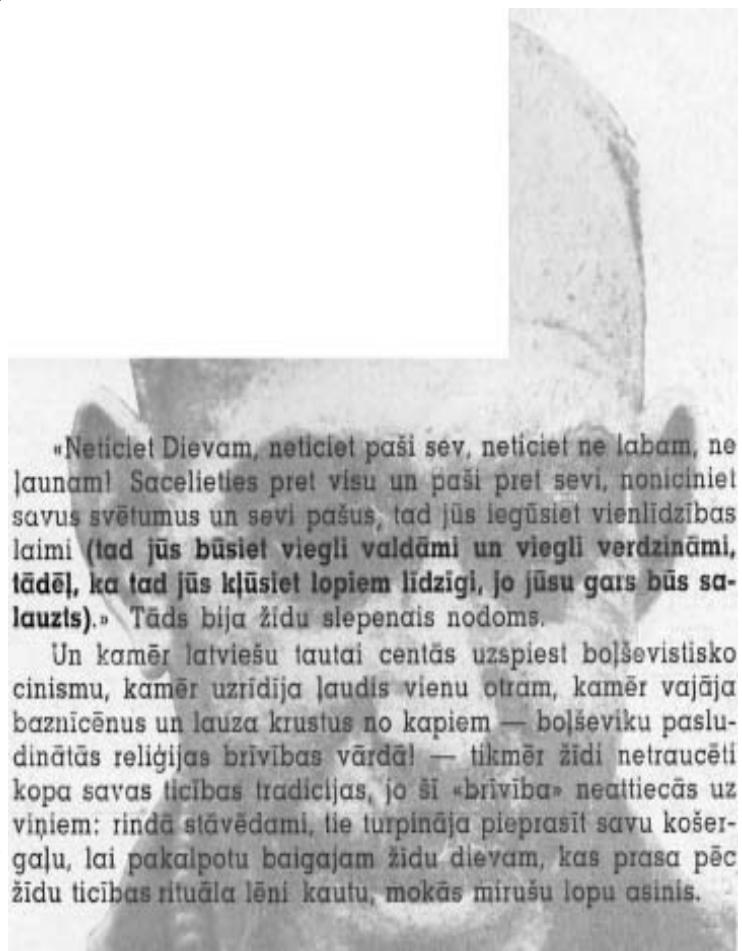
VIENOTI  
LATVIJAI

paraleloare se degajăjă.  
Numărul său este cel mai mare  
în ceea ce privește  
volumul și în ceea ce privește  
căracterul său. În  
această carte se pot găsi  
informații precum și  
opere de artă și  
știință. Aceasta este  
o carte care va fi  
utilă tuturor  
cei care sunt interesati  
de istoria României  
și de cultura română.  
Cartea este editată de  
Editura Academiei Române  
și este disponibilă  
în librăriile din  
tuturor orașelor din  
țară.

A report by the manager of a school. Where was Bolshevism leading our young people, the Latvian people's one and only hope for the future?

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*A mob stirred up by Bolsheviks is carrying a cross broken off in Rainis cemetery in Riga.*



«Do not trust in God, do not trust yourselves, trust neither good nor evil! Revolt against everything and against yourselves, derogate your holy of holies and yourselves and then you will acquire the happiness of equality (then you will become easy to manage and easy to enslave, therefore you will be similar to cattle because your spirit will be broken).» This was the secret idea of the Yids.

And while it was tried to push over the Latvian nation the Bolshevikistic cynicism, while people were hounded each to another, while church-goers were persecuted and the crosses broken off the gravestones - in the name of freedom of religion announced by Bolsheviks! - meanwhile the Yids were practicing their religious traditions uninterrupted, because this «freedom» did not apply to them: standing in lines they continued to demand their special meat in order to serve their terrible Yiddish God, who referring to Yids religious ritual demanded the blood of animals killed slowly and by torture.

*«Neticiet Dievam, neticiet paši sev, neticiet ne labam, ne jaunam! Sacelieties pret visu un paši pret sevi, noniciniet savus svētumus un sevi pašus, tad jūs iegūsiet vienlīdzības lāimi (tad jūs būsiet viegli valdāmi un viegli verdzināmi, tādēļ, ka tad jūs kļūsiet lopiem līdzīgi, jo jūsu gars būs salauzs).» Tāds bija židu slepenais nodoms.*

*Un kamēr latviešu tautai centās uzspiest boļševistisko cinismu, kamēr uzrīdīja ļaudis vienu otram, kamēr vajāja baznīcēnus un lauza krustus no kapiem — boļševiku pasludinātās reliģijas brīvības vārdā! — tikmēr židi netraucēti kopā savas ticības tradīcijas, jo šī «brīvība» neattiecās uz viņiem: rindā stāvēdami, tie turpināja pieprasīt savu košerīgu, lai pakalpotu baigajam židu dievam, kas prasa pēc židu ticības rituāla lēni kautu, mokās mirušu lopu asinīs.*

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# THUS WERE THE LATVIANS THINKING AND FEELING



It was not possible to change anything in the flow of events. The Latvian people turned away from Bolshevism, drew closer and felt the only power against outrageousness in their sense of community.

Latvian soldiers driven on the streets by red politruks, forced to demonstrate against their will, knew how to proudly express their bearing filled with honor and dignity and in suppressed indignation and awareness of being Latvian to separate from everything Bolshevik.

*left: A unit of Latvian soldiers in the demonstrations on International Youth Day. Their deeply serious or ironic faces express anything but joy about Soviet Authority.*

The most pain for the disaster and suffering of their people was felt by Latvian young people. With gloomy, reserved faces, sunk into themselves, they were marching driven by fanfares of May 1st (below) and being aware of the deep misery of the destiny of their people.



*Pioneers on a truck in one of the demonstrations. Their faces show how enslaved and frightened they feel.*

Driven into the Pioneers Organization, so strange and disgusting for a child's soul, little Latvians gloomily carried out imposed obligations. But Bolshevism precisely there - among the youngest - was trying to raise people suitable for themselves. The poison of betrayal was also poured into the hearts of the littlest.



Téma o que é nra, nraia ir lati pmasas  
pred so isráel, to nraia pccoljo ar ta,  
na nraia orvalho no psona na ergam 200,  
un tu me i caras lendo e no carmo jo  
dicas bijurias Leturias arroquias un  
aparicio pccoljo: "Dces nraia Leturias!"  
Máru classe ir Etat soa ir diti Etat  
des vidas dñs las goti ia aui nois  
jubilar e lair ir L. Pwci nra. Ekdla obem  
nraia nraia nraia almea nraia palmea  
L. Pwci nraia nraia nraia nraia nraia  
L. Pwci nraia nraia nraia nraia nraia

*An informer's report by some Pioneer about his  
classmates (right)*



A unit of Latvian soldiers prior to going to the Saeima election, forced to pose for a press photographer. Officers pointedly turned their backs.

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# ON THE NIGHT OF JUNE 14, 1941

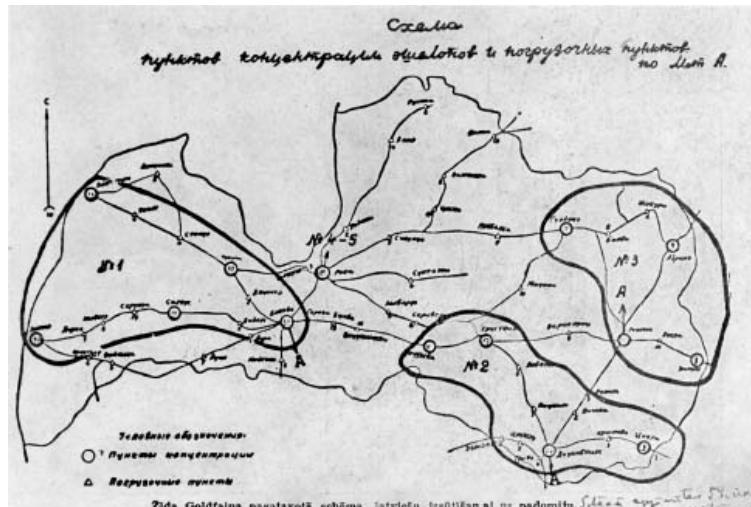
The Latvian people finally understood the fate to which it was to be subjected. On this night it saw the true face of Bolshevism. Showing no mercy to children, women or old men, during this night the Soviet Authority throughout Latvia arrested the best Latvian families, delivered them to the stations and in barred cattle carriages banished them to the Soviet Union. By such orders, in just a single night 14,693 of its honest sons and daughters were pulled out from the among the Latvian people.



Top: The room from which a Latvian family was pulled out and driven onto unknown roads of suffering.

At the bottom: a plan of collecting and loading (!) points of convoys anticipated for Latvians to be banished, found in archives left by the Bolsheviks.

Designations: collection points: loading points. Word-for-word written about loading, for transportation of people to be banished it is anticipated to use the cattle carriages.



The plan prepared by the Yid, Goldfains, for banishing Latvians to the Soviet Union.

THE ONLY [discovered] PHOTOGRAPHS WHICH PROVE UNDER WHAT CIRCUMSTANCES THE LATVIANS WERE DRIVEN AWAY: TRAINS FOR THE BANISHED IN OGRE STATION



Relatives of the unfortunates at one of the carriages. A KGB man prohibited the handing of food, drinking water and warm clothing to those being banished.



In barred carriages the unfortunates were forced to spend days and nights without food and water on their way of thousands of kilometers.

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#### DOORS CLOSED

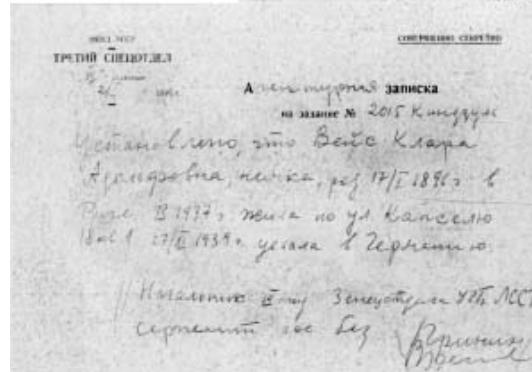
unfortunates having one last look at their native land through the bars of a window. Armed KGB guards providing security ... How could babies and women and old people resist? How could the Bolsheviks be frightened by Latvian men whose only weapon was their spirit and the determination to endure?

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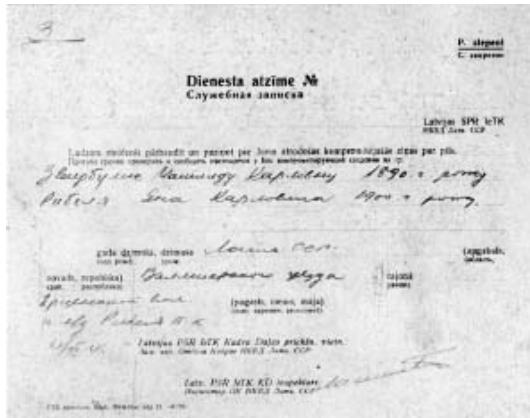
# THE KGB WORKED IN THIS WAY

An order addressed to the Third Special Department of NKVD: to find complete and compromising information on one Klara Veise (right).

If it was decided to reduce somebody to ruin, the KGB simply ordered the materials necessary for this purpose be found, or to be more precise, to be created.



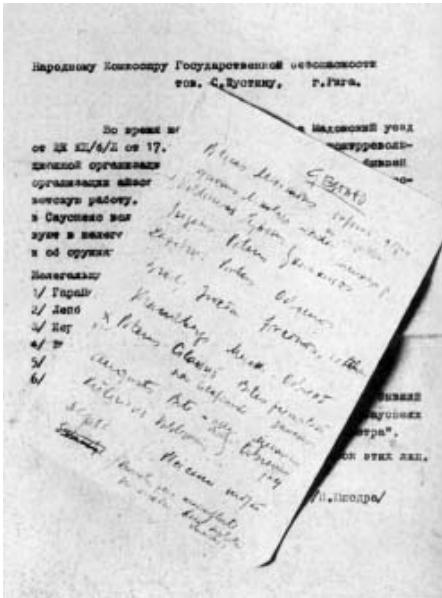
With special decrees it was ordered to collect accusatory information about those under suspicion. On every one of them the KGB had its special register. If one institution had a lack of materials, they were borrowed from another.



*An order from Latvian National Commissariat of the Interior for the collection of compromising information.*

It was a deliberate set-up so obvious in this particular case: Klara Veise had already left Latvia a year previously, as it is certified by the document of the NKVD (left).

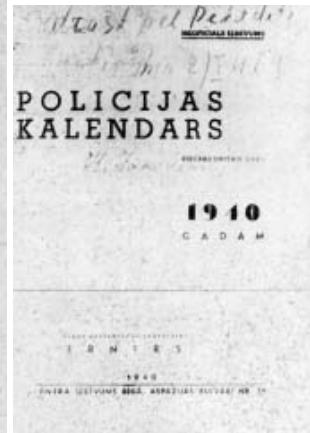
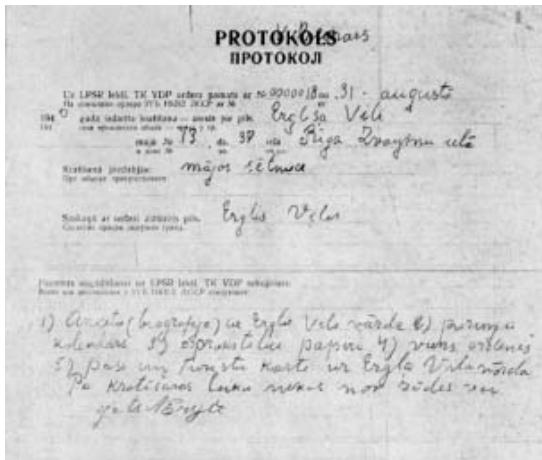
The Soviet Authority could rely on its servants: a report by writer Janis Niedre to the National Commissar of the State Security S. Šustins (at the bottom).



# LATVIANS BEGAN TO BE PERSECUTED IN THE VERY FIRST DAYS OF THE BOLSHEVIKS

Evidence of Bolshevik management methods:  
Warrants for arrest and search.

A police calendar taken away from citizen Priedītis during the search. An inscription proves the names of the searchers.



Information and instructions on those to be supervised, searched or arrested were delivered to the KGB by a carefully organized network of informers, spies and agents. But the most valuable services were provided by loyal men placed within institutions and work places.

Here are some of those who made the Latvians suffer: Yid, Cipe Gutmanis, a thief and a burglar with 3 1/2 years spent in prison, a servant of the Bolsheviks at the Apartments Administration (top). Ernests Rožkalns (bottom) master of breaking and entering and theft, punished 16 times, the manager a some trading enterprise during the Bolshevik period.

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Prisoners of the KGB - young and old, workers and intelligentsia, men and women...

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# THE ROAD OF TORTURE

ON WHICH WENT  
THOUSANDS  
OF LATVIANS



The hallway of Riga KGB, with cells



A solitary cell, one of the methods of torture. In such a cell it is impossible to stretch nor to sleep. Those arrested were first made exhausted in order to reduce their strength and resistance ability during questioning.

The yard of the KGB where sometimes the arrested were taken for a walk.



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One of KGB cells. During the night there suddenly the shout was to be heard «Get up!» KGB men called the names of the arrested. The ones who were called were ordered to follow - along endless hallways they were led to a room.

# THIS WAS

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# ONE OF THOUSANDS

## THE ROAD OF ONE LATVIAN



from life and freedom along the KGB labyrinths and to the death of a martyr.



The ex-manager of the Organization and Mobilization Department of the Latvian Army Headquarters, colonel Streipa.





Interior National Committee for the State Security, later the State Security Commissar S. Šustins.



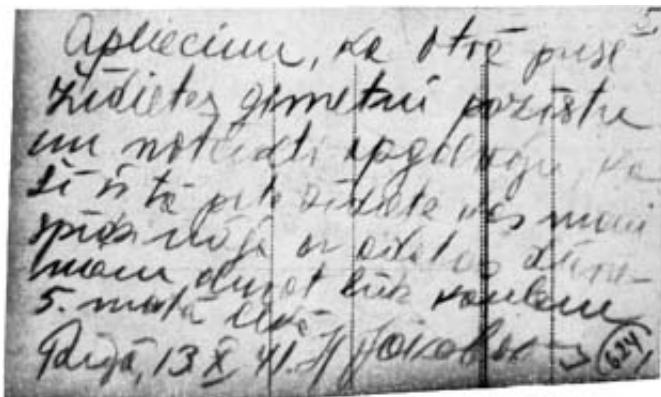
Commissar of the Interior A. Noviks who took the office after Šustina.



Mozus Citrons, Daugavpils KGB doctor with a salary 900 rubles per month - three times the normal salary for doctors. For whom was he providing medical services?



A Yiddish woman, hired by the KGB for torture tasks



SO THEY LOOK  
THEMSELVES AND  
THESE ARE THEIR  
VICTIMS...

A victim of the Bolsheviks killed by the so-called Yiddish butchers' «schochet's» cut.

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# THE EARTH OPENED



A silent summer house in Baltezers ... To here in closed cars armed KGB men were driving tens of Latvian patriots. Behind the fence of this summer house their road of torture came to an end.

Not far away from this summer house, among young trees filled with the sap of life, freshly dug earth shone dimly.



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Liberated from the bloody yoke, on July 1941 the earth returned its secret. It opened very much on facts which the Bolsheviks were very carefully trying to hide behind barred windows, barbed wires, in cellars and in their minds.

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*Corpses were freed from their clothing*

In twenty-three years the Bolshevism had not changed. The graves of buried victims disclosed the same picture as in 1919 during the first invasion of the Bolsheviks into Latvia.

*Lines of murdered in Baltezers*



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Latvians murdered at the Krustpils airport when the Bolsheviks were retreating.

More and more new graves gave up their victims:  
unearthed martyrs at the Krusta church in Riga.

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*Identification of corpses found in Biķernieki.*



Within all the nearest surroundings of Riga were found pits with shooting victims. In each of them were 10 - 30 corpses or more. In Biķernieki were discovered new graves, in Dreiliņi more in another.

How many of such mass graves were hidden and still is hiding all unfortunate, befouled with severity Latvian land? The names of many who were found in the graves are not known, the destinies of countless others can not possibly be followed up even today.

*The line of victims unearthed in Dreiliņi.*



With the beginning of the German - Soviet Union war the terror of the Bolsheviks got even stronger, getting to open murder. A terrible fate befouled Latvian soldiers in the most severe way: those who were considered politically unreliable were pensioned off from the service. When they were leaving the location of their army units, they were treacherously lured into a trap and fusillade.

*Balvi rural district, Vilis Lapinš, an unknown soldier and Peteris Krauja murdered on June 29, 1941.*

*Shot soldiers found nearby Litene camp - from the left: E. Vilkājs, J. Pinka, V. Leja, V. Tumaševics, A. Tumaševics.*



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# THEY ARE HERE



The beginning of the war was driving the bloody oppressors away from the Latvian land. Because they did not manage to destroy the Latvian nation and sensing the final hours of their power, the Bolsheviks were wildly massacring victims - Central Prison prisoners - helpless, unresisting, miserable people.

*Unearthing of corps in a yard of Riga Central Prison*

The layer of earth just couple feet thick was covering those prisoners shoot by Bolsheviks, who were lying there thrown each on the top of another in messy pails.



*The earth returning victims*

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All that was left from the vigorous power of many lifetimes and lives sacrificed for the fatherland.



*Corpsmen bringing a victim out of the pit.*

*Lines of corpses in the yard of Riga's Central Prison.*



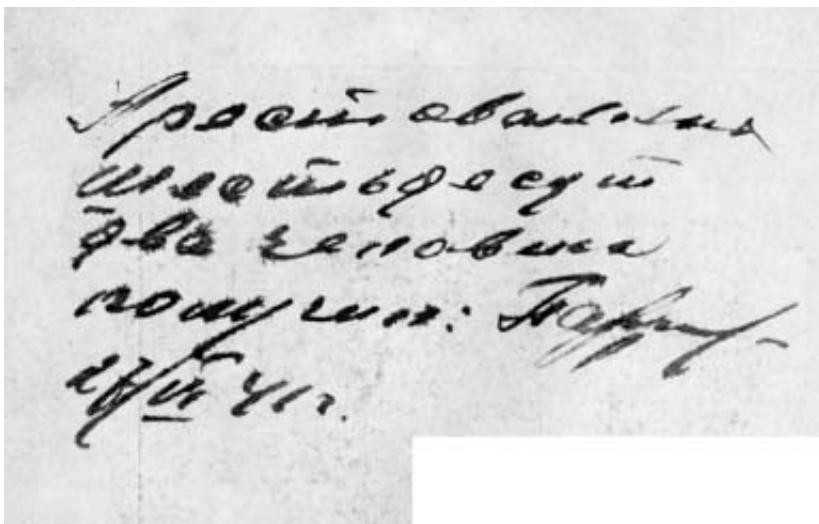


*In the yard of the  
Central Prison*

In this manner, on June 28, 1941, during the final hours of their power the Bolsheviks massacred the people locked up in the prisons.

*relatives of the shot and missing looking for their family members among corpses in the yard of the Central Prison.*





The actual scope of Bolshevikistic murderers certify the terrible resolution on the list of arrested written with red ink by Commissar of Internal Security Šustins: «**Considering the social dangerousness, to shoot all**» (in the bottom)



№/н.	Имя, фамилия, отчество, место жительства	Судебное обвинение	Логотип
1.	Иванов Иван Иванович, г. Краснодар	1. Всевозможные преступления в зоне контрреволюции. Активисты антипартийных группировок - члены и связь с группами контрреволюции. /один из членов партии КПСС/	
2.	Петров Пётр Петрович, г. Краснодар	2. Был на похоронах в день Первого мая в зоне контрреволюции. Был в парке в зоне контрреволюции. Был в лесу в зоне контрреволюции. Был в магазине в зоне контрреволюции. Был в библиотеке в зоне контрреволюции. Был в театре в зоне контрреволюции.	

This decision of death erased lives of 78 people, who, as indicates the list on the top «were arrested for counterrevolution».

Here are the basis for the death penalties of Latvians shot because of counterrevolutionary activities:

- «Sang Latvian folk songs.»
- «Did not sing The Internationale on May 1st.»
- «Was a descendant of wealthy farmers.»
- «Was utilizing labor force of others.»
- «Hid in the forest.»
- «During an air raid was in a cemetery.»
- «Was a member of corporation.»
- «Was a member of the Mazpulki organization.»
- «Was a National Guardsman.»
- «Was a policeman.»
- «Had been awarded the Lacplesis Order.»
- «Fought in the Latvian Army against Bolshevism.»
- «Was disposed to anti-Bolshevism.»
- «Ignored Red Army soldiers.»
- «Had defamed the Bolshevik Party.»
- «Was an adjutant of the State President of Latvia.»
- «Raised hostility against other nations.»

To the left a document of sordid cynicism of Bolsheviks: a receipt about receiving people sentenced to the death issued to the administration of a prison by a KGB official with the following text: «Have received sixty two arrested people.» - As we can see the names of the people were not important, only the number. Those received by number also were shot by number.

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# THEY WERE AN INNUMERABLE REGIMENT



Tailor Voldemārs Janelis in private life.



Tailor Voldemārs Janelis - a KGB prisoner.

Those who knew him in a life will not recognize him in the death.  
The KGB made sure of it.



Tailor Voldemārs Janelis a KGB victim.



School Department Director Arnolds Čuibe.

THEIR CRIME WAS - THEIR POSITIONS,  
THEIR BIGGEST TRANSGRESSION -  
SERVICING FOR THE NATION AND  
FATHERLAND

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Smashed skulls and distorted faces, opened and disjointed mouths - everything proves the terrible suffering which these martyrs had to experience during the last of their days and at the hour of their death.



Pēteris Dobe



Stanislav Belkovskis



Kārlis Purnīš

# MURDERED AND TORTURED IN THE NAME OF «THE CONCEPT OF EQUALITY» OF BOLSHEVISM

*Jānis Steps  
Alberts Broders  
Nikolajs Zokorko*



«No. 6»

## NOT MUCH IS LEFT OF A PERSON

It was not possible to discover the identities of many victims.



*Arvīds  
Zemītis*



An unknown victim, Nikolajs Dāvis, Jānis Opincāns

## RARELY DID ANYONE SUCCEED IN ESCAPING THE FATE OF OTHERS



One of them was Silvestrs Brokāns



«A passport» of arrested - his cell card.

The text of the death sentence.



The reason for arrest - the words of Brokāns: «the Germans shot down 400 Bolshevik planes, within two weeks they will be here.»

Only couple days passed, Riga got liberated, but to Brokāns even on June 26 the death penalty was condemned. Only a miracle saved him.

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# ANNOUNCEMENT

As the German army drew closer to Riga the terror of Bolsheviks became indescribable.

Announcements on the streets were offering information about arrests. When later the graves of shooting victims were opened, it appears that among those murdered was not even a single Yid.

Even while retreating in haste from Liepāja, the Bolsheviks were able to massacre their prisoners.

A scene in the cellar of the Liepāja Militia.

All three shoot - kinsfolk of one family. Their «crime» - at the front of their apartment a piece of white cloth was found. Justification for the death penalty: they were giving signals to the German army.

Yesterday and today for counterrevolutionary activity - organizations of acts of diversion, terror, giving signals to the enemy etc. several persons have been arrested, among them Miervaldis Lūkins, son of Jānis, Nikolajs Rainics, son of Georgs, Heinrichs Neibergs, son of Jānis, Matvejs Kuznecovs, son of Nikolajs, Jāzeps Kagans, son of Abrāms, Arnolds Čuibe, son of Jānis and others.

For all those arrested the death penalty by shooting has been imposed and the decision was executed.

So it will be done to anyone who in any manner will attempt to support the enemy and to betray their Fatherland.

I invite the working people of the City of Riga to be helpful in discovering ill-disposed elements.

The Chairman of Riga Garrison  
Lieutenant-General SAFRONOVS.

June 27, 1941



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A pile of corpses in a room in the cellar of Liepaja Militia, where a hand grenade was thrown in first, and then those who remained alive were shot.

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*Rows of shooting victims in Valmiera*

## WITHIN ENTIRE COUNTRY THE KILLING MADNESS OF BOLSHEVIKS KICKED AND SCREAMED



Civilians murdered in Jelgava. Prior to shooting they were tortured then thrown into the garbage.



Murdered workers in Jelgava.

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SO ENDED THE TIME  
OF GOVERNING OF  
AN AUTHORITY OF  
VILE MEN

Retreating from Riga ahead of the attacking German armed forces, the Bolsheviks left empty bottles in a KGB office... and a city set afire by themselves.



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# SUCH WAS THE BEGINNING ... AND SUCH WAS THE END

# THE BALANCE SHEET OF THE GAHASTLY YEAR

Everything that the Latvian people and state received from the Bolshevik government which came with promises of freedom, brotherhood and equality, happy life and sunshine future.

**ARRESTED ... BANISHED ... MURDERED ... MISSING ...**

## 34.250

E m p l o y e d	Banished 13./14. VI, 1941	Arrested and banished	Missing (driven away) after 14. VI, 1941	Murdered	Total
In agriculture	3.839	766	551	226	5.381
Industry, crafts, trade	1.586	1.084	2.988	162	5.820
Traffic, transport	227	281	2.375	59	2.942
Soldiers, police employees	982	682	3.340	190	5.194
State and local government employees	1.311	599	569	77	2.556
Free professions	697	178	209	44	1.128
Landlords, old age people	196	38	-	12	251
Students, children	3.290	364	1.070	49	4.773
In household	1.953	42	298	3	2.296
Other, of unknown occupation	613	2.007	749	540	3.909
<hr/>					
T O T A L :	14.693	6.041	12.161	1.355	34.250
Among them					
men	6.294	5.686	9.801	1.235	23.016

women	5.174	338	1.604	102	7.218
children before age of 16 years	3.225	17	756	18	4.016
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From Riga	3.540	1.925	5.812	298	11.566
Vidzeme	2.942	999	1.660	302	5.903
Kurzeme	2.146	583	968	144	3.841
Zemgale	2.655	657	768	110	4.190
Latgale	3.558	986	1.122	206	5.872
Unknown	52	891	1.831	304	3.072

The Latvian flag, the pride and dignity of the nation was trod underfoot, personal freedom was stolen, the economy and agriculture were ruined, valuables: ships, trains, vehicles and factory machines, agricultural inventory were taken away. 488.000 cattle were driven away. 79.225 tons of cereals, from private depositors savings were robbed, forests were destroyed for the construction of innumerable military structures of the Bolsheviks, when retreating houses and public buildings were deliberately burned, bridges ruined.

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## ABOUT THE TRANSLATION

General translation from Latvian into English can be difficult under ordinary circumstances. The principal difficulties encountered are the fact that Latvian does not employ definite articles, leaving the translator to puzzle out whether to write "an objection" (one of perhaps many) or "the objection" (meaning just one); the fact that prepositions in direct translation are often not what is really being meant, such as "from" (meaning someone sent by a group) when what was really meant in context was "of" (meaning someone who is an actual member of the group); and finally, the fact that after fifty years of Soviet repression, contemporary Latvian dictionaries are much smaller in size and fewer in number than their English counterparts, making it extremely necessary for the translator to have read and reread both versions many times and then to employ both a native speaker of Latvian and a native speaker of English to read together and discuss in detail the nuances and alternatives.

One specific method was employed in this translation, as the publisher decided that the importance of this information required the most clear and accurate translation possible: where an unavoidable choice between accuracy and clarity had to be made, accuracy was chosen and clarity has been achieved through footnoting. In other instances, it was recognized that particular terms or references might not be understood without a definition or explanation, and these are also footnoted.

No deliberate attempt was made to expurgate (sanitize) the offensive or inflammatory language included in the text, as the publisher's instructions were to be guided by academic and linguistic standards and to ignore the political and social sensibilities which might be offended. The translators are satisfied that their instructions were to create a thoroughly accurate translation in all respects.

The Translators

## FOOTNOTES

### Inside Cover

the Latvian "baigais" means both 'ghastly' (shockingly dreadful) and 'terrible' (severely distressing). For the title, it was translated in the former in view of the nature of the events being related. In the text, the latter was used to describe individual situations as less drastic than the sum of such acts.

### Page 1

Edvards Virza:

This heart-wrenching poem, with its strange and dirge-like meter, sounds in Latvian much like the slow pealing of a distant bell or the far-off weeping of a lost child. The poet predicts the effects of a ghastly year in which no new life or warmth or pleasure will exist. The Sun will be cursed for revealing everything as it has become and nothing from that season of horror will long survive. Winds of change will draw a curtain of blood across the view until nothing is certain. And even the earth and the waters of life, choked with the graves of the murdered, will remain mute and poisoned by the deeds of man. It is a poem without hope, without anger, without fear. It is the last breath of life escaping in a whisper of words not even of regret, but of a terrible and final farewell.

This poem is best read after fully reading the volume.